GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2003
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Survey
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) data shows that the number of rural students attending school is rising but more than half of the students in fifth grade are unable to read a second grade text book and are not able to solve simple mathematical problems;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government accept the findings of the ASER Report;
(c) if so, the details of action taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard; and
(d) whether the Government is considering instituting a periodic survey on the same pattern to reach a wider audience and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a) Yes, Madam. PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization conducts annual achievement surveys released in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). It is a household survey limited to rural areas of the country. As per their report of 2014, there has been an increase in the enrollment level of children in rural areas by 3.3% in 2013 and 3.6% in 2014. Further, 96% children in the 6 to 14 age group are enrolled in schools in rural areas. The findings suggest that 48.1% of children in grade V can read a grade II text and 26.1% children in grade V have the ability to do division.
(b) Some of the salient findings of the ASER-2014 Report include inter-alia, 96 % of children in the 6 to 14 age group are enrolled in schools in rural areas and that the percentage of out-of-schools children in the 6-14 age group is low at 3.3%. Further, there has been steady improvement in provisioning school infrastructure. However, it expresses some concerns regarding learning level of children in both English and Mathematics at the elementary level.
The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development was not associated with this ASER 2014 survey.
(c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by 86th amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory Education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right. Under SSA, the State government/UT administrations are being financially supported to address gaps and challenges in ensuring quality education to children in elementary classes through recruitment of additional teachers to improve the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), regular annual-in-service teacher training to all teachers to update their skills and knowledge, support for Computer Aided Learning at upper primary level and regular academic support through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, a sub-programme under SSA has been launched to enhance the quality of foundational learning in languages and early mathematics in classes 1 & 2 and a focused programme for Science and Maths at upper primary level under SSA is also being supported. For secondary education, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shikhsa Abhiyan programme similarly provides for in-service teacher training, academic support to schools for improving performance including training for Principals.
(d) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in grade III, V and VIII and X. Four rounds of National Achievement Survey (NAS) have been conducted so far for grade V and three rounds for grade III & VIII. These reveal improvement in learning achievement levels of pupils, in identified subjects from first round to fourth round. Since only first round of NAS has been conducted at grade X level, it is not possible to comment on the comparative learning achievement or decline of students of grade X. From current year onwards, Government has decided to conduct annual census based National Achievement Surveys covering all students from grade 1-8 in all government and government aided schools. The students learning assessment will be according to

the Learning Outcomes developed by NCERT for all subjects covering all classes in the elementary cycle.
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